

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Buffalo Soldiers

Instructions: Use the [Blacks in the West](#) Mini Page to answer the first set of questions. Then, look on the internet to find additional information about Buffalo Soldiers. Remember that you will later be choosing another group of people to compare to the Buffalo Soldiers, so look for information that will help you with this. Be as detailed as possible!

Mini Page questions:

1. Where did the term “Buffalo Soldiers” come from?

Indians called them this because of their bravery and curly hair, reminded them of the buffalo

2. Do you think the soldiers liked this nickname? How do you know?

Yes- the 10th cavalry had a buffalo in their symbol

3. How many cavalymen were black in 1865? **1 out of every 5**

4. Who commanded black units? **White officers**

5. How do you think the black soldiers felt about this?

Answers will vary: Maybe they felt bad, or angry, that they couldn't command themselves.

Maybe they were resigned to it because at least they got to be a cavalryman, when other jobs weren't open to black men at the time

6. How do you feel about this?

Answers will vary

7. What were the Buffalo Soldiers' other duties?

Keep order in town, arresting criminals, guarding stagecoaches, building forts and roads

Internet Sources: (Hint- this will be best if you divide the websites amongst your group)

[NC Buffalo Soldiers](#) [National Parks Service](#) [Yosemite National Park](#)

Use the sources above to find the answers to these questions. Not all questions can be answered using each site; you must gather information from each to answer the questions.

You do not need to write in complete sentences. You do need to be detailed:

1. How were Buffalo Soldiers received by white soldiers and the white public in general?

From NC site- many white people were unhappy at first, even though they were still segregated, some white officers refused to command their units

From Yosemite site: "In the early 1900s, African-Americans were routinely abused, or even killed, for the slightest perceived offense."- so Buffalo Soldiers had to navigate this in the work and personal life

2. What were some accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers?

From Yosemite page: getting rid of poachers and thieves, putting out forest fires

From NC page: put up telegraph lines, guarded water holes, protected stagecoach riders and mail carriers, protected settlers. Won 24 medals of honor during the Indian Wars

3. What other countries did the Buffalo Soldiers go to?

From NPS site: the Phillipines, Cuba, Mexico

4. At what National Parks did Buffalo Soldiers work?

Yosemite and Sequoia

5. Choose one soldier and write some information about his/her life. (Yes, there was 1 known female Buffalo Soldier! Find her if you're interested!)

Answers will vary- NC site has a few to choose from

6. What is one other interesting thing you found?

Answers will vary

Taking things further:

1. Why do you think Buffalo Soldiers have been largely overlooked in American history?

Possible answers: history books mostly focus on white people, maybe talking about discrimination makes people uncomfortable, because they were a small group people didn't think it was important to know about them

2. Do you think it is important to learn about the Buffalo Soldiers? Why or why not?

Answers will vary

3. If you had been a black person in the late 1800s, would you have wanted to be a Buffalo Soldier? Why or why not?

Answers will vary